Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 GUATEM 01579 112315Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 /076 W
----------112353Z 002090 /67
P 112205Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5177

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GUATEMALA 1579

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GT
SUBJ: ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY - CONTINUING PRESS REACTION

REF: STUATEMALA 1386, 1135

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. SUMMARY. GUATEMALAN INTEREST IN ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY CONTINUES AT HIGH LEVEL, AS DEMONSTRATED BY TWO VERY DIFFERENT EDITORIALS CITED BELOW. ONE CHARACTERIZES ADMINISTRATIONS'S POLICY AS CONTINUATION OF AMERICAN INTERVENTIONISM AS PRACTISED BY TEDDY ROOSEVELT, JOHN FOSTER DULLES AND RICHARD NIXON. OTHER PREDICTS THAT ADMINISTRATION POLICY WILL BRING ABOUT DOWNFALL OF LATIN DICTATORSHIPS AND STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY. END SUMMARY.

2. EDITORIAL IN MARCH 10 EDITION OF PRO-GOVERNMENT DAILY NACION, OWNED BY PRESIDENTIAL PRESS SECRETARY ROBERTO GIRON LEMUS, IS ENTITLED "CARTER INTERVENES ABROAD AS DID NIXON". EDITORIAL STATES, "MR. JAMES CARTER IS PROJECTING HIMSELF TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD IN A FORM OF IMPERIALISM THAT IS IN NO WAY DIFFERENT FROM THAT USED BY NIXON, ONLY IN AN OPPOSITE MANNER. THE RISE OF CARTER INDICATES THAT THE IMPERIAL PRESIDENCY WITH A SEAT IN WASHINGTON HAS NOT ENDED.
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 GUATEM 01579 112315Z

NIXON DEPOSED ALLENDE AND CARTER HAS SHOVED PINOCHET. DEMOCRACY WAS ONE THING FOR NIXON AND ANOTHER FOR CARTER. BUT THE INTERVENTION OF THE IMPERIALISTIC NORTH AMERICAN PRESIDENTS IS THE SAME. NO COUNTRY SHOULD CHOOSE ITS OWN GOVERNMENT. IT IS UP TO WASHINGTON TO DICTATE APPROPRIATE APPROVAL.

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

3. "THE QUESTION IS THEREFORE WHO WILL DEFINE DEMOCRACY IN OUR COUNTRIES, OUR PEOPLES OR THE US GOVERNMENT? ONE CAN UNDERSTAND THAT MR. CARTER IS SEEKING THE PROTECTION OF THESE PEOPLES SO THAT THEIR HUMAN RIGHTS WILL NOT BE TRAMPLED NOR ELIMINATED. BUT NEITHER CARTER TODAY, NOR NIXON IN THE PAST, NOR THEODORE ROOSEVELT OR DULLES HAD THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE IN AFFAIRS THAT ARE THOSE OF EAACH SOVEREIGN COUNTRY. IN THE WORLD OF PRACTICAL POLITICS, THE CONSEQUENCES OF CARTER'S INTERVENTION IN LATIN AMERICA WILL BE TO STRENGTHEN THE DICTATORSHIPS AND ALLOW THEM TO REPRESS THEIR PEOPLES EVEN MORE IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AGAINST IMPERIALISM."

4. SECOND EDITORIAL SAME DAY IN LIBERAL DAILY EL GRAFICO, SIGNED BY EDITOR JORGE CARPIO NICOLLE (REFTELS), IS ENTITLED "ECLIPSE OF THE DICTATORSHIPS". CARPIO WRITES THAT "CARTER ADMINISTRATION WITH ITS MORAL POSITION IS GOING MUCH FURTHER THAN COULD BE IMAGINED. THE WITH-DRAWAL OF SUPPORT CAN ONLY LEAD TO ONE RESULT: THE ADVENT OF DEMOCRACY IN COUNTRIES WHERE IT HAS DISAPPEARED AND ITS STRENGTHENING WHERE THE SYSTEM HAS BEEN WEAKENED. THE CHANGE IN FOREIGN POLICY OF THE US WILL REMOLD THE WESTERN WORLD. THE DEMOCRATIC WINDS WILL CAUSE A RETURN TO THE PRINCIPLES OF RESPECT FOR HUMAN INDIVIDUALITY. LIKE THE PHOENIX, DEMOCRACY WILL RETURN TO ESTABLISH ITS PLACE IN THE CONTINENT." END UNCLASSIFIED.

5. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. COMMENT: OBVIOUSLY, BOTH EDITORIALS OVERSTATE THEIR CASE. CARPIO KNOWS WELL
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

THAT THE ADMINISTRATION'S NEW HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY IS NOT GOING TO SWEEP THE BAD GUYS OUT AND THE GOOD GUYS IN, JUST AS GIRON LEMUS UNDERSTANDS THAT CARTER IS ACTING VERY DIFFERENTLY FROM THE WAY ROOSEVELT, DULLES, AND NIXON ACTED. NEVERTHELESS, EACH DOES REFLECT CERTAIN HOPES AND CONCERNS. THE LIBERALS, LIKE CARPIO, HOPE THE NEW HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY WILL FORCE SOME REPRESSIVE LATIN GOVERNMENTS TO MODIFY THEIR POLICIES AND PERHAPS, IN SOME CASES, PERMIT THE RETURN OF FREELY ELECTED GOVERNMENTS, WHILE THE CONSERVATIVES ARE CONCERNED THAT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AMERICA MAY "INTERVENE", HOWEVER DIFFERENTLY, AGAINST THEM INSTEAD OF FOR THEM.
BOSTER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: HUMAN RIGHTS, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM01579
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770085-0205
Format: TEL
From: GUATEMALA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770370/aaaacjjn.tel
Line Count: 110
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0dddbab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3141384
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ADMINISTRATION HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY - CONTINUING PRESS REACTION
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, GT, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0dddbab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009